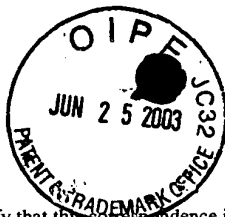


09/701,232



Docket No.: PF-0525 USN

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE **RECEIVED**

In re Application of: Lal et al.

Title: HUMAN SOCS PROTEINS

Serial No.: 09/701,232

Filing Date: July 5, 2001

Examiner: Hamud, F.

Group Art Unit: 1647

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action dated February 21, 2003. Applicants request reconsideration of the above-referenced patent application in view of the following amendments and remarks. **Please note that the period for response has been extended until June 21, 2003 by the accompanying Petition and fee.** This Response is timely filed June 23, 2003, as June 21, 2003 is a Saturday and June 22, 2003 is a Sunday.